



## Educational Activities

### Central NY Dairy Day

Returning to its traditional Cooperstown location this year's main focus was cow comfort. Featured speakers were Dan McFarland, Penn State Extension Ag. Engineer discussing cow comfort in tie stall facilities and Dr. Heather Dann of Miner Institute describing how to optimize cow comfort in free stall facilities. A producer panel, which proved to be very popular featured four farms that had made improvements to cow comfort and described their results. The over 100 in attendance were also able to interact with vendors at a trade show. (Balbian)



Dr. Heather Dann of Miner Institute answers a question about cow comfort at the Central NY Dairy Day during the panel discussion

### Field Crop Pest Management Meetings

Conducted at all of the CCE offices in the region these meetings review pest management problems from 2015 and highlight areas of pest control field crop growers need to consider in the future. This year James Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist, with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health gave a general overview of the types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that may be required to safely apply pesticides changes to the Worker Protection Standard. The one hundred and two in attendance also received DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits which are needed to maintain their licenses. (Ganoe)

### Academy for Dairy Executives

Academy for Dairy Executives is an educational program that teaches dairy farm business management to younger or new managers. The last two of three sessions took place during the first quarter of 2016 with session two in Glens Falls and the final session in Cobleskill. This program is a three session program (noon to noon) with an overnight (including evening educational activities). Well over half of the approximately 35 participants were from our region. (Balbian)

### Milk Marketing WebEx Program

Given current low milk prices producers were given the opportunity to interact with our Cornell Milk Marketing Specialist Andy Novakavic through WebEx technology at various CCE offices in the region.

Topics included Market Outlook, Patterns in Milk Production Growth and Trends in Dairy Food Consumption but also time for questions and answers of participants. (Balbian)

### **Winter Dairy Management**

This year's program focused on transition cows, including nutrition, animal behavior and environmental considerations and cow-side care and decision making. Around 75 attended this program for the three locations Ballston Spa, Morrisville, and Binghamton. (Balbian)

### **2016 Corn Day**

The 2016 Corn Day was back to its usual location in Cooperstown. The over 100 in attendance learned more about no-till production, customizing variable rate seeding prescriptions based on field specific properties and how to control corn diseases and western bean cutworm. (Ganoe)



Savanna Crossman, Precision Agriculture Research Coordinator, New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association talks about corn seeding rate research at the 2016 Corn Day.

### **Hay Schools**

These two day schools held in Ballston Spa, Mohawk and Cobleskill had one hundred twenty one people in attendance. In the first week participants learned how to improve their hay fields and how to time cutting for highest quality. The second week focused on the hay and baleage making process and the associated machinery along with how to properly store hay. (Ganoe)

## **Current Projects and Grants**

### **New York Farm Viability Institute Income Over Feed Cost Grant.**

Three subgroups of seven producers each have met for the 2nd time with meeting locations in Ballston Spa, Canajoharie, and Oneonta. Now that producers are past the initial collection of data and are familiarized with this program they were able to see their own progress using the metrics we are examining. Producers are really understanding what is important to profitability and how they can influence it on their farm as some great progress has been made on individual farms.

### **Dairy Acceleration Program.**

As a facilitator for this program across our region Dave continued to work with farms on the Dairy Acceleration Program as applications continue to come in. (Balbian)

## **Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance**

Met once this quarter with two different dairy farm profit teams. (Balbian)

Individual assistance has mainly focused on the area of dairy nutrition. The low milk prices have raised people's attention to feed costs and production. Also working with a producer building a new barn by demolishing the old barn and rebuilding a new barn right on top of the old concrete (with lots of modifications). The old barn was literally falling down. Cows are being milked with a bucket milker in a small freestall barn onsite. Also working with a producer who has some medical problems helping him to put together a plan to generate income by renting his barn to a young person starting out in dairy farming. (Balbian)

Continue to answer questions regarding hay fields and pastures for new or part time farmers that have little or no cropping experience. (Ganoe)

## **Speaking Opportunities:**

Kevin had a number of speaking opportunities this quarter. He spoke:

- at the 2016 Empire State Producers Expo on the results of a malting barley survey
- at meetings in Oneida and Oswego counties on how grow malting barley
- for a class session on hay crop production for a seed and forage class at SUNY Cobleskill

## **In-service & Professional Development:**

Dave attended the NEDPA (Northeast Dairy Producers Association) Conference in Syracuse. It is held every other year and is always a great opportunity to stay abreast of the latest issues and trends in the dairy industry. (Balbian)

Kevin attended the Farmer Brewer Weekend at Hartwick College. This nationally recognized program invites experts from across North America to speak on malting and brewing. (Ganoe)

## **Newsletters and Media**

Country Folks continues to provide some great coverage of educational events that we conduct & participate in. There were follow up stories on the individual members of the producer panel at Dairy Day.

Progressive Dairyman magazine did a story about Dairy Day. The writer attending and put together a nice article about the day's events and also followed up with one of the producer panel members.

## Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue work on the Dairy Acceleration Program as Dave is the facilitator for this program across our region. (Balbian)

Continue with individual assistance on facilities & dairy nutrition. (Balbian)

Continue work of the NYFVI IOFC Grant. (Balbian)

Help implement a statewide malting barley scouting program for producers. (Ganoe)

Conduct soybean scouting program for soybean producers. (Ganoe)